

1. (Twice Amended) In a round baler for baling harvested crops and having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the improvement comprising an actuating mechanism having a plurality of belts and rollers disposed adjacent one another within the baling chamber for enabling baling chamber size to vary when pivoted, and a tensioning arm provided with guide rollers and a pivotal arm, wherein the tensioning arm is pivotally mounted on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank, wherein the first end of the bell crank is pivotally mounted on a side wall of the baler's tailgate, and wherein a second arm of the bell crank is operatively engageable with a latching mechanism on a frontal part of the housing and means for increasing a latching force on the latching mechanism as a bale in the baling chamber increases in size.

is connected to the tensioning arm to rotate thereon (page 4, line 7)
the 1st arm of
pivotally mounted to the 1st arm of the bell crank and the second arm of the bell crank is

3. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a plurality of mutually interlinked belts.

4. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein a fixed stop is arranged on the tailgate below the second arm of the bell crank.

5. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein the means for increasing a latching force on the latching mechanism includes a tension spring arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler.

2
C 6. (Twice Amended) In a round baler for bailing harvested crops and having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the improvement comprising an actuating mechanism having a plurality of circulating flat-type belts and pressure rollers disposed adjacent one another within a peripheral region of the baling chamber for enabling baling chamber size to vary when pivoted, and a tensioning arm provided with guide rollers and a pivotal arm, wherein the tensioning arm is pivotally mounted on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank, wherein the first end of the bell crank is pivotally mounted on a side wall of the baler's tailgate, and wherein a second arm of the bell crank is connected to a latch which is engageable with a keeper disposed on the frontal part of the housing and means for increasing a latching force on the keeper as a bale in the baling chamber increases in size.

of the 1st arm
of the
bell crank

8. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a plurality of mutually interlinked belts.

9. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein a fixed stop is arranged on the tailgate below the second arm of the bell crank.

10. (Twice Amended) A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein the means for increasing a latching force on the keeper includes a tension spring arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for baling harvested crops utilizing a round baler having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the method comprising:

pivoting an actuating mechanism having a plurality of belts and rollers disposed adjacent to one another within the baling chamber to vary baling chamber size;

pivotally mounting a tensioning arm, having guide rollers and a pivotal arm, on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank;

interconnecting a latch with a second arm of the bell crank;

engaging the latch with a keeper to lock the two-part housing in a closed position; and

increasing a latching force between the latch and the keeper as the size of the bale increases.

12. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including the steps of:

pivotally mounting the bell crank on a side wall of the baler's tailgate; and

selectively engaging an arm of the bell crank with a frontal part of the housing via the latch.

13. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including providing a plurality of mutually interlinked belts to form part of the actuating mechanism.

15. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including arranging a fixed stop adjacent the bell crank for engagement when releasing the latch and opening the pivotal tailgate.

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16. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including arranging a tension spring between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler for biasing the tensioning arm into a lower end position.

18. (New) A round bailer for bailing harvested crops having a frame, a frontal housing connected to the frame, and a rear housing pivotally connected to the frontal housing, the round bailer including:

a latch pivotally mounted on the rear housing and operatively engaged with the frontal housing when the rear housing is in a closed position;

a bell crank pivotally mounted on the rear housing and having first and second arms, the first arm of the bell crank operatively connected to the latch;

a rotatable tensioning arm operatively connected to the frame;

a pivotal arm rigidly connected to the tensioning arm for rotation therewith;

and

a hydraulic cylinder having first and second ends, the first end operatively connected to the second arm of the bell crank and the second end operatively connected to the pivotal arm; whereby engagement of the hydraulic cylinder disengages the latch from the frontal housing and pivots the rear housing from the closed to an open position.

19. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a keeper operatively mounted on the frontal housing;

20. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, wherein the latch has an arcuate end.

21. (New) The round bailer according to claim 20, wherein the arcuate end of the latch engages a cylindrical keeper mounted on the frontal housing.

22. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a tension spring mounted to the frame and operatively connected to the pivotal arm.

23. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a fixed stop rigidly connected to the rear housing adjacent the bell crank.

24. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a rod intermediate the latch and the first arm of the bell crank.
